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Form and Functions of American Government. By THOMAS HARRISON REED. Revised edition. Yonkers: World Book Co., 1921. Pp. xv+549.

The revision of this volume, first published in 1916, was undertaken in order to incorporate the changes brought about by the war in American government. The general plan of the book remains untouched, and the reviewer notes occasional omissions of recent changes which would seem to be marked for notice. Selection of material, however, becomes a constantly increasing difficulty in the preparation of a general text; and the efficiency movement is making such rapid strides that any choice of illustrative material or even any detailed selection of topics to be treated is likely to become out of date.

On the whole this book remains a traditional secondary-school text in civics. Due and grateful allowance made for well-chosen cuts, for chapters on the functions of government, for an account of parties, for the recognition of administration and the civil service, it must still be said that the book is conceived and written in the traditional acceptance of civics. The high-school student will learn here the elements of the structure of government, federal, state, and local; he will be presented with an analysis of party organization and party purposes; he will read about many of the things that government does. What he will read is well written and accurately written. It is written, too, without committing the unsuspecting reader to any "ism" or philosophy; so careful, indeed, has the author been to refrain from any suspicion of propaganda that the book lacks a certain indefinable quality, which is the reflection of personality.

The author writes in his Preface that one object of the book is "to make better citizens and better government"; and in so far as an intellectual comprehension of forms and functions can bring this about, the author has succeeded. As in all the traditional books, however, one misses the analysis and description of the forces and influences which operate the machinery of government and which give vital significance to forms and functions. This omission deprives the study of government of a goodly share of its importance and leaves the eager student with a disheartening set of rules, offices, powers, dates, and names which somehow strangely fail to function in the real world of politics.

It may be impossible, also, to put in a book something of that crusading spirit which will make students care for good government

as well as know what it is; something which will burn within them when they take their places in the world's work, and urge them to play their effective parts in government and politics. If this is true, one cannot justly criticize a book which in the absence of that rare quality leaves one a little cold; but with the enormous possibilities of touching the imagination and the heart of young Americans whose minds have not yet been wholly set, one must regret that our equipment in civics textbooks is still fixed in the traditional descriptive forms. Among such books, however, the reviewer knows of none which are to be preferred to this ample volume by Professor Reed.

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What Is Social Case Work? An Introductory Description. By MARY E. RICHMOND. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1922. Pp. 268. \$1.00.

This volume reveals several important tendencies in social work: (a) the rapidity with which the thinking of social workers is approaching that of social scientists; (b) the increasing emphasis upon the social psychological aspects of case-work; (c) the rapidity with which social case-work is attaining the dignity of a profession; and (d) a growing willingness on the part of professional social workers to take the public into its confidence in the attack upon case-work problems.

The author answers the question set by the title thus: "Social case-work consists of those processes which develop personality through adjustments consciously effected, individual by individual, between men and their social environment" (p. 98). However, the cases chosen to illustrate the problems and methods of social case-work have been selected and discussed in a manner which may suggest to some social workers that a more precise title would be: "What Is Social Case Work, Ideally?"

Miss Richmonds' long experience in first-hand contact with the problems in this field lend unusual authority to her writings. The subject-matter is so presented that it is wholly intelligible to interested laymen and at the same time it is an important addition to the library of the professional.

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